

Assembly Bill No. 313

CHAPTER 961

An act to amend Sections 14875, 14876, 14877.1, 14877.2, and 14877.3 of, and to amend the heading of Chapter 22 (commencing with Section 14875) of Division 7 of, the Water Code, relating to water.

[Approved by Governor October 16, 1995. Filed
with Secretary of State October 16, 1995.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 313, McDonald. Graywater.

Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources, in consultation with the State Department of Health Services, to adopt standards for the installation of graywater systems for landscape irrigation for single-family residential buildings and to revise those standards as needed, authorizes the installation of a graywater system in those buildings if the city or county having jurisdiction over the building determines that the system complies with the department's standards, and authorizes a city or county to either adopt more stringent standards than the department's standards or to prohibit graywater systems. Existing law defines graywater.

This bill would, instead, require the department, by January 1, 1997, in consultation with the State Department of Health Services and the Center for Irrigation Technology at California State University, Fresno, to adopt standards for the installation of graywater systems, as specified, for subsurface irrigation and other safe uses. The bill would require the department to include drip systems among the approved methods of subsurface irrigation. The bill would authorize the installation of a graywater system if the city or county having jurisdiction over the installation determines that the system complies with standards adopted by the department. The bill would authorize a city or county to adopt standards that prohibit the use of graywater or standards that are more restrictive than the standards adopted by the department, as appropriate for the local area. The bill would revise the definition of graywater.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The heading of Chapter 22 (commencing with Section 14875) of Division 7 of the Water Code is amended to read:

CHAPTER 22. GRAYWATER SYSTEMS

SEC. 2. Section 14875 of the Water Code is amended to read:

14875. This chapter applies to the construction, installation, or alteration of graywater systems for subsurface irrigation and other safe uses.

SEC. 3. Section 14876 of the Water Code is amended to read:

14876. “Graywater” means untreated wastewater which has not been contaminated by any toilet discharge, has not been affected by infectious, contaminated, or unhealthy bodily wastes, and which does not present a threat from contamination by unhealthful processing, manufacturing, or operating wastes. Graywater includes wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines, and laundry tubs but does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers.

SEC. 4. Section 14877.1 of the Water Code is amended to read:

14877.1. (a) On or before January 1, 1997, the department, in consultation with the State Department of Health Services and the Center for Irrigation Technology at California State University, Fresno, shall adopt standards for the installation of graywater systems. In adopting these standards, the department shall consider, among other resources, “Appendix J,” as adopted on September 29, 1992, by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, the graywater standard proposed for the latest edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, the City of Los Angeles Graywater Pilot Project Final Report issued in November 1992, and the advice of the Center for Irrigation Technology at California State University, Fresno, on the installation depth for subsurface drip irrigation systems.

(b) The department shall include among the approved methods of subsurface irrigation, but shall not be limited to, drip systems.

(c) The department shall revise its graywater systems standards as needed.

SEC. 5. Section 14877.2 of the Water Code is amended to read:

14877.2. A graywater system may be installed if the city or county having jurisdiction over the installation determines that the system complies with standards adopted by the department.

SEC. 6. Section 14877.3 of the Water Code is amended to read:

14877.3. After a public hearing, a city or county may adopt, by ordinance, standards that prohibit the use of graywater or standards that are more restrictive than the standards adopted by the department, as appropriate for the local area.

